



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. EMPLOYMENT.

**Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development
OKLAHOMA WORKFORCE YOUTH COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 24, 2014

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Place: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairs Chuck Mills and Jeff Pritchard welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. Everyone was asked to self-introduce themselves.

Minutes

Gilbert Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2013 meeting. Jeff Pritchard seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Resource Database Demonstration

Youth Council member, Doug MacMillan, demonstrated a resource database that he developed. He has identified over 25,000 resources in Oklahoma that could help people. He has added nuggets of these to his database. One of the great resources many people don't know about is the Aging Catalog. There are six different regions in the state and they publish a catalog of services in that area on aging. Doug is in the process of going through it and adding the resources to his database. He has also created a tool to use to help people search for information in the database. Important data elements have been added such as who, what, how, etc., to connect people with opportunities. It is not web-based at this time. Chuck Mills said that he would like to see something like this for workforce'

Norma Noble

Chuck asked Norma if she would consider staying on as a member of the Youth Council after she retires as they would like for her to continue serving. He added that Governor Fallin presented Norma with a Governor's Commendation and a Pioneer Woman statue. She thanked Norma for her service to the State of Oklahoma and for pioneering the way for other women.

Norma said she wanted to thank everyone on the Youth Council for the work they are doing. For many years, the Youth Council drove the work of the Governor's Council, such as graduation standards (ACE came from this), dual credit, graduation coaches, accessing OKCIS, etc. She is very proud to be a part of these initiatives. She said that she would probably take Chuck up on his offer to stay on the Youth Council.

Strategic Planning – Wrap-up Session & Action Items - Connie Lake, Facilitator

Connie stated as a recap, last session we started out focusing on the purpose of the Youth Council then we established the context, identified the challenges, assets and opportunities. At the priority stage, the priorities identified were two:

- Create Career Pathways and exploration opportunities for youth (14-24 years old) using business partners and parents.
- Support a statewide STEM system hub (could be combined into one priority)

There was discussion that the two priorities could be combined into one priority. From there, you identified how you would measure that – how you would know if you are successful. You identified that as increasing the number of students who graduate with a career plan.

The question from there would be, what is the baseline data for that so you will know when you are successful? Is it for example 2,000 students having career plans? What is that number currently - does anybody know if that data exists?

The next step in the process is to take the priorities and map each one out with specific actions in the first six months, the second six months, and then after that (one-year plus). Actions are then assigned to either the Youth Council or the state system partners (or regional partners if applicable). The Career Planning, Communications, and the Best Practices Committees of the Youth Council could work on this rather than having to form new committees.

Connie provided a handout sample for “Making Place Matter”, which is a roadmap describing the actions planned for each partner.

Jeff Downs said that the common theme that he heard from this morning’s Governor’s Council meeting was the lack of leadership that we’re not teaching our youth, to actually go out and take empowerment of their own career paths. We keep handing students tools and programs and doing all of these great things that look good on paper and then they ask us, “How do we use it?” He thinks our strategies should be less on programs and more on skills, leadership skills and empowerment of our youth. Jeff thinks this is one of the key components of success and anything that we do out of the Youth Council needs to have this as a common core principle.

Ben Robinson said in his experience with the military when talking about empowerment, the one key word you have to have in connection with empowerment is the concept of desire. You cannot empower anyone if they do not have the desire to be empowered. The word that we don’t use enough is motivation. How do we reach down to the middle school level or lower and start the concept of motivation towards a career that just doesn’t create wealth but creates a quality of life and the opportunity to obtain that quality of life. That conversation doesn’t happen in school and we need to get the conversation down there. We need to have relevance along with rigor. Relevance creates the concept of motivation, motivation creates the desire and desire enables empowerment. . The key to it is the concept of going after the teacher so they will be advocates.

Connie said the first priority, to create Career Pathways and exploration opportunities, we already have models in the state. How do you leverage those models? Is that what you want to do? It seems logical to her to incentivize other regions in the state to have career pathways models as in the Duncan area. But it also goes back to what Dr. Sommers said today – it’s a great model but do we just want to implement great models around the state or do we want to motivate kids into careers?

We don't know if that model is successful yet because it hasn't been in place long enough. As the governor said, one of the things that she's learned in the private sector is to *"inspect what you expect"*.

Jeff Downs said you don't have to create curriculum for a Career Pathways class but you can incorporate or embed it within other classes or in every class. How do we do this? It comes from professional development for teachers, we need to train or re-train our teachers.

Ben Robinson said this is being done with the Aerospace Education and Industry Partnership Day. Also Career Tech is very linked to business and industry and what their needs are and industry practices. Jeff said that we need to bring industry in to help conduct those sessions so teachers can see the relevance and when they see it, they can actually teach it to their kids.

Tina Lindsay mentioned that something else we don't see any more are field trips. This was a very good way of educating kids on various career pathways. Connie added that one of the things that we don't use enough is virtual tours. This helps a lot when there are limited resources. Norma said that this could build on the Communications Committee's videos.

Jeff Pritchard would like to add another priority and see remediation rates measured and to advocate for the creation of K-12 academic standards that are aligned with college and career readiness.

Connie would like to get to some specific actions.

PRIORITY:

- Create Career Pathways and exploration opportunities for youth (14-24 years old) using business partners and parents; Support a statewide STEM system hub.

Immediate Action (1-6 months):

Youth Council

- Advocate for academic standards that align with postsecondary education and career readiness
- Develop training modules to support tool kit(s) created for Career Pathways (use the workforce and employers to start educating parents and communicating what is happening in the schools and around the state for initiatives – also communicate to parents about the ecosystems to show them where their kids can be most successful)

System/State Partners

- Agency involvement in marketing through various methods of media
- Recommend to SDE to allow for districts, schools and teachers to get credit for achievement on alternate testing such as the ACT

Follow-up Actions (6-12 months):

Youth Council

- Organize presentations at the COSA conference for school boards as well as the State Superintendent's conference – ideally presented by Duncan reps.

Long-term Actions (1 year +):

Youth Council

- Compiling and sharing best practices
 - Use the WIBs and the WIB Youth Councils as a method of communication

Bylaw Change Regarding Meetings

A bylaw change was recommended for the Youth Council to meet quarterly in order to follow the same schedule and the Governor's Council meetings. A motion was made by Chuck Mills to change Section 5.01 Meetings of the bylaws to quarterly meetings (from bi-monthly), seconded by Leroy Walker. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting Date/Location

To be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*